

Subjects: Dr. Lawrence's coin collection;

U.S. 1854 gold dollar

Johnston, James

[Mountcharles, Co. Donegal,
Irish Free State]

1929

Personal

The Secretary
American Numismatic
Society
156 Street (West of
Broadway)
New York City

Salt Hill House
Tinatallon
(Mountcharles)
Co. Donegal
Irish Free State
20/11/29

Dear Sir

I hope you will kindly pardon
my writing you about the following
matter. Recently I read in a news-
paper published here a short account
of the sale by public auction of coins
belonging to the estate of a Dr. Lawrence
(I think) the name or names of the
auctioneer or auctioneers, not being given.

This account stated, among other
items, there an United States gold
twenty five dollar coin privately minted
in 1849 at San Francisco, sold for
\$7,500, and an United States gold

five dollar coin dated 1853, sold for
\$7,000. I have been encouraged
by this to take the liberty of writing
you, for which kindly pardon my
to ascertain from you some indication
of the value of a five dollar United
States gold coin dated 1854 in a
very good state of preservation which
I have. Failing this, perhaps you
might kindly give me the name
of the firm of auctioneers who
realized Dr. Lawrence's collection.

I shall highly appreciate a
reply to this at your early convenience
and in the meantime I beg to
remain, Respectfully Yours
James Johnston

December 5th 1929

Mr. James Johnston
Salt Hill House
Tanatallon
Mountcharles, Co. Donegal
Irish Free State

Dear Sir:

Responding to your inquiry of November 20th, Dr. Lawrence's collection was sold by the Elder Coin and Curio Company, 8 West 37th Street, New York.

I am sorry to write however, that the United States gold dollar of 1854, which is in your possession, is far from having the same degree of rarity as the pieces to which you refer. A specimen in good condition can be purchased for from two-and-half dollars to seven-and-half dollars, which means that no dealer would offer you that amount for it. Unless your coin has a tiny D or S under the wreath on the reverse, it is hardly worth more than two-and-half dollars; if it does have either of these letters, it would not be worth more than seven-and-half dollars.

Regretting that I am unable to assure you that your coin is of considerable value, I am,

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

(D)

Coll Hill House

Sydney P. Noe Esq. Navatallon
Secretary (Mountcharles)
The American Numismatic Co. Donegal
Society Irish Free State
Broadway Between Decr 18th 1929
155th and 156th Streets
New York City
U.S. America.

Dear Sir

Kindly accept my sincere thanks
for your courteous and prompt reply
to my letter of 20th November, in reference
to the value of the United States gold
dollar coin of 1854 which I have.
I regret that it is not of considerable
value as you state, nevertheless I
shall retain it in my small collection.
I examined the coin carefully under the
wreath on the reverse but I could not
find either a tiny D or S, so that the
coin has no special mark or feature.

to enhance its value in the eyes of
a collector. I thank you for the
name and address of the Elder Coin
and Curio Company.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely
James Johnston